

## The CIA Plotted To Change U.S. Policy

By Jim Garrison

**I** BELIEVE that what happened at Dealey Plaza in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, was a coup d'état. I believe that it was instigated and planned long in advance by fanatical anticommunists in the United States intelligence community; that it was carried out, most likely without official approval, by individuals in the CIA's covert operations apparatus and other extra-governmental collaborators, and covered up by like-minded individuals in the FBI, the Secret Service, the Dallas police department and the military, and that its purpose was to stop Kennedy from seeking detente with the Soviet Union and Cuba and ending the Cold War.

I do not know precisely when the planning and preparation for the coup began. Just who did the plotting is not clear either.

In the United States, the modern counterparts to the Praetorian Guard are vital to a successful coup because they have the capability of allowing the defensive protection of the leader to vanish at a crucial moment. A Telexed warning of an attempt to assassinate the president in Dallas on Nov. 22 or 23 had apparently been sent to every FBI special agent in charge across the country and had been



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quietly ignored. The protective bubble for the president's limousine had been left off by the Secret Service. The windows and roofs of buildings along the parade route had not been secured. And the parade route had been changed at the last minute so that the motorcade would have to make a sharp turn, thus slowing it to less than 10 m.p.h.

The president's blood hardly had cooled before the well-organized cover-up began. Ruby's murder of Oswald, silencing the one man who might have identified the assassination's sponsors, was the capstone.

For 25 years, the American people have been bombarded by propaganda pointing insistently to a variety of irrelevant false sponsors as the supposed instigators of the Kennedy assassination. ("False sponsor" is a term used in covert intelligence actions which describes the individual or organization to be publicly blamed after the action, thus diverting attention from the intelligence community.) The original false sponsor was the scapegoat himself, Lee Harvey Oswald. Nominated for the role by the intelligence community, he was formally endorsed by the Warren Commission and others at the highest levels of the United States government. However, over time it became increasingly apparent that the lone assassin fairy tale had fallen apart, and most of its supporters simply fell silent.

One of the most intriguing false sponsors is Fidel Castro. I was aware, as well, of the brief vogue for the "Southwest oil billionaires" as backers of the assassination. The primary and most lasting false sponsor has been organized crime, the Mafia, the mob. Upon close examination, however, the false sponsors all fall of their own weight. What remains as the only likely sponsor with both the motive and the capability of murdering the president is the covert action arm of the Central Intelligence Agency.

In retrospect, the reason for the assassination is hardly a mystery.

Following Lyndon Johnson's swearing in as president, Kennedy's order to have the first thousand Americans returned home from Vietnam by December was promptly rescinded. By the time the United States signed the Paris Agreement in January 1973, more than 55,000 Americans were dead.

Thus was President Kennedy's foreign policy reversed. This was the major consequence of the assassination, and the real reason for it.